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This invention relates to an isolated nucleic acid fragment encoding a delta-6 desaturase or sphingolipid desaturase. The invention also relates to the construction of a chimeric gene encoding all or a portion of the delta-6 desaturase or sphingolipid desaturase, in sense or antisense orientation, wherein expression of the chimeric gene results in production of altered levels of the delta-6 desaturase or sphingolipid desaturase in a transformed host cell.

LCCKHNLSTYETAHNEAKHIVYSTLRVAEMZAKQVTK--PVPKHNWMEAHNTFG
LCCKHNLFPYLSFSEAKHMTJRLTALQALQDILF--PAPKHNLEAVNTNG
LCCKHNLFPYLSFSEAKHMTJRLTALQALQDILTK--PFPKHNLEAVNTNG
LCCKHNLSTYAAFTNGAHVLTKTLRAAALQALQATFEGGAPKHLVMEAVNTG
LCCKHNLSTYGAATFSEAHVHTKTLRAAALQALQATFEGGAPKHLVMEAVNTG
LCCKHNLSTYGAATFSEAHVHTKTLRAAALQALQATFEGGAPKHLVMEAVNTG
